

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR AFGHAN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act, which would direct the State Department to automatically issue a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) for every Afghan who lived in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar and their legal spouse and children, so they can escape persecution by the Taliban and relocate safely to the United States. My legislation also provides for Afghan nationals selected by the State Department for similar educational or cultural exchange programs, which included living, working, or studying in the United States after the start of the U.S. strikes against the Taliban and the terrorists responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

In 2009, Congress passed the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (Title VI of Public Law 111–8) making a special class of American visas—known as “Special Immigrant Visas”—available to individual Afghan allies who supported the United States’ mission in Afghanistan. An SIV entitles a foreign national to relocate with their immediate family and live lawfully in the United States on a temporary basis with the option to settle permanently.

During the U.S. military drawdown from Afghanistan and the region this past summer, my Congressional office helped to evacuate over a dozen Afghan Fulbright Scholars who studied at the University of California, Davis in my district. That critical work revealed red tape preventing current and former Afghan Fulbright Scholars from obtaining the SIV needed to escape persecution by the Taliban, underscoring the need for this legislation.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I was impressed by the United States Air Force and Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) executing the single largest airlift since the Berlin Airlift during the onset of the Cold War to evacuate our Afghan allies. With American military operations in Afghanistan now ended, I am committed to bringing all our Afghan allies safely to the United States.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring the Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan Fulbright Scholars Act.

HONORING PEDRO BRULL FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Pedro Brull.

Pedro was born in 1938 in the town of Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. From a young age, his father encouraged him to take lessons in drawing and painting with famous Puerto Rican artist Rafael Rios Rey in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His mentor later recommended Pedro to artist Nina Lelled, who was the former art director for a local Puerto Rican television station. Brull worked for this company for 22 years, working as an apprentice, a TV technician, and later as art director and production manager. During this time, Brull studied commercial art and received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts while at a New York City TV station.

Pedro Brull is an award-winning artist and is recognized by many institutions. He even received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his artwork. His artwork is on display in several places including Spain, Africa, Puerto Rico, and numerous art galleries within the United States. Pedro is also the recent creator of “La Diaspora de Artistas Puertorriqueños.”

Today, he is focusing his efforts on the creation of a Museum for Latino Art and Culture. Five other Hispanic artists have joined Pedro to coordinate this project. In Spain, the Museum of Graphic and Drawing invited Pedro to send three of his drawings to be part of their permanent museum collection where they have been placed for art enthusiasts to enjoy. Pedro is married to Magda Brull and together they have four children: Maria, Jaime, Haydee, and Pablo. Brull was a former evangelical minister for more than 50 years.

For this and more, we honor Pedro Brull.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll call 313, on Motion to suspend the rules and pass The Surface Transportation Extension Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 313.

PASSING OF EDUCATION PIONEER DR. SAUNDRA W. DAVIS

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I am marking the passing of education pioneer and advocate Sandra W. Davis, a leader who spent decades working to assure that all children in Culver City, and in Los Angeles more broadly, have access to a high-quality education. I had the privilege of meeting her as I began service in the California Assembly and I have long admired her dedication to public service.

The first African American ever elected to public office in Culver City, she won a seat on

the Culver City School Board in 2000 and served two terms, rising to serve as its president. Mrs. Davis’ accomplishment marked a significant milestone in Culver City’s journey to become one of the most progressive municipalities in the region. She remained active in Culver City throughout her life.

She made progress on closing the achievement gap for students of color, and went on to found Community Centers Inc., (CCI) a 40-year-old non-profit in South Los Angeles to provide services in computer literacy, adult education, and immigration advocacy.

Wife to Bilson Davis and mother to eight children, Dr. Davis had an early passion for education and never stopped learning herself. After graduating Crenshaw High School, she earned numerous degrees and certifications throughout her life and eventually received an honorary doctorate. She held a California Teaching Credential and served as director of Holy Temple Christian Elementary School, and later worked as a parent educator for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Mrs. Davis won several awards for her community and advocacy work including: an NAACP Emerging Leader award; the Delta Sigma Theta Woman of Honor award; the City of Los Angeles 8th District Woman of the Year. She leaves behind a significant legacy of community improvement and she will be missed.

HONORING STEPHANIE CARRIZALES FOR HISPANIC HER- ITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Stephanie Carrizales. Stephanie is a Mexican American patient care tech at Winter Haven Women’s Hospital in Central Florida. She has served her community for the past eight years and plans to continue devoting her time to patient care in the future. Stephanie began her career at Winter Haven Women’s as a night shift interpreter. She is proud of her Mexican heritage and bilingualism and knew she wanted to do this from a young age. She felt honored to help patients and doctors understand one another, especially for mothers when meeting their newborns.

Stephanie was born and raised in Polk County by her two hardworking and loving Mexican parents. They immigrated to this country as teenagers to find better opportunities for their family. Stephanie believes that her parents’ work ethic has kept her motivated to strive toward her goals. She graduated from Bartow High School with high honors and obtained her certified nursing assistant license in the school’s medical program. She is a first-generation college graduate with her A.A. degree in liberal arts. Stephanie is proud of her Hispanic culture and is honored to help her community every day.

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